

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunication connection from a telecommunication line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit, the method comprising the steps of:

controlling the setup of the telecommunication connection with an intelligent network;
providing, via the intelligent network, bits of information required for the charge-related billing;

charging the telecommunication connection at a preference charge rate when the target telecommunication line unit belongs to a previously-made selection of target telecommunication line units; and

charging the telecommunication connection at a charge rate that is more expensive than the preference charge rate when the target telecommunication line unit does not belong to the previously-made selection of target telecommunication line units,

Claim 2 (original): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunication connection from a telecommunication line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

querying from a data memory allocated to the intelligent network whether the target telecommunication line unit belongs to the selection of target telecommunication line units.

Claim 3 (original): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunications connection from a telecommunications line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring the bits of information required for the charge-related billing by the intelligent network; and

forwarding the bits of information required for the charge-related billing to a charge unit, which is present in the communication network for the charge billing, after the telecommunication connection has been completed.

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Claim 4 (original): Claim 3 (original): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunications connection from a telecommunications line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

reducing a prepaid charge credit by the intelligent network by an amount deriving from a duration of the telecommunication connection and one of the preference charge rate and the charge rate that is more expensive than the preference charge rate.

Claim 5 (new): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunication connection from a telecommunication line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein a service control point of the intelligent network sends both a connection message and a charge message to a service switching point of the intelligent network, with the service switching point, in turn, setting up the telecommunication connection from the telecommunication line unit to the target telecommunication line unit.

Claim 6 (new): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunication connection from a telecommunication line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the charge message effects the bits of information required for the charge-related billing to be deposited in the service switching point.

Claim 7 (new): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunication connection from a telecommunication line unit of a communication network

to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein the bits of information relate to a beginning and type of the telecommunication connection.

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Claim 8 (new): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunication connection from a telecommunication line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein additional bits of information about an end of the telecommunication connection are deposited in the service switching point after the telecommunication connection has been completed.

Claim 9 (new): A method for the setup and charge-related billing of a telecommunication connection from a telecommunication line unit of a communication network to a target telecommunication line unit as claimed in claim 6, wherein upon receipt of the charge message from the service control point, the service switching point sends a further message to a switching center associated with the telecommunication line unit which, in turn, prepares and forwards fee information back to the service switching point after the telecommunication connection has been completed.
